

Outlook

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND FACULTY AND STAFF NEWSPAPER

Volume 20 • Number 10 • July 20, 2004



Agreement Reached

Page 3

Honoring an Example of Innovation

Gay Gullickson, a professor in the Department of History, received the President's Commission on Disability Issues Outstanding Faculty Award this spring for her work to improve the lives of those with disabilities on campus.

"Gay is more than deserving of this award for incorporating teaching about people with disabilities into both her administrative and academic



PHOTO BY MONETTE AUSTIN BAILEY

Gay Gullickson

service to the university," said Claudia Rector, assistant director of the American Studies department during remarks at the ceremony. Rector nominated Gullickson for the award.

Rector mentioned Gullickson's experience as a wheelchair user and willingness to share this experience as a member of the university's Architectural Standards Design Board for several years.

"Even more important — to me, at least — is Gay's contribution to the campus community by pioneering teaching in disability studies.

"Gullickson's progressive scholarship and generosity in sharing her knowledge and experience both inside and outside the classroom make her exactly the sort of person the university should recognize as a model of both scholarship and citizenship."

Dedicated to Cleaning the Earth

Jennifer Becker's research on how microbiological processes work in contaminated environments, while important on its own, received presidential recognition recently.

President George W. Bush named Becker, an assistant professor in the biological resources engineering department, one of the nation's most promising young scientists and engineers. Becker is one of 57 who received a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). Eight federal departments and agencies nominate presidential

See **BECKER**, page 4

Outstanding Women Recognized



PHOTO BY MONETTE AUSTIN BAILEY

Gladys Brown, former director of the Office of Human Relations Programs (center), stands with the President's Commission on Women's Issues Women of Color Award winners. Earlene Armstrong (left) is an associate professor with the Department of Entomology and director of the Pre-freshman Academic Enrichment Program, for which she received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring from the Bush administration. Johnetta Davis is associate dean of the Graduate School. During her tenure, which began in 1993, graduate enrollment has increased by 8 percent and minority graduate enrollment increased by 21 percent.

Brown was the keynote speaker for the event.

Making Camp Happen for Everyone

One camper, fascinated by the gelatinous nature of a fish's eye, decided that poking at it with his paint brush would be more fun than painting the whole thing for the assigned art project.

A counselor standing nearby asks if the little boy is finished and can he please stop that? He sneaks in one more poke before it's time to clean up. Swimming is next. After that, campers and their parents will share a potluck dinner with the staff.

Camp Attaway, like many such escapes, allows young people a place to go to make friends and have fun. What sets it apart, though, is its larger mission: to provide a place for young people with emotional and behavioral disorders to experience what other kids do when school's out.

"These kids have been previously excluded from other camps because of the severity of their disorders, or their parents never

attempted to put them in a camp," explains David Cooper, an associate professor with the College of Education's special education department. He co-founded the camp with university psychology alumnus Saul Lieberman nine years ago. "Our commitment is first to be fun. This is not school. This is not therapy."

However, Cooper and Lieberman realized that the environment also needed to be safe and nurturing, so the counselor to camper ratio is 1-to-2, remarkably low by camp standards. Counselors have at least some related college coursework under their belt. A few have advanced degrees.

"The majority of these children have difficulty maintaining social relationships, friendships," says Cooper. "The ratio allows us to make sure every child gets a really intensive relationship with the adult staff."

A bubbly 9-year-old, who lists making ice

cream and swimming as his favorite Camp Attaway activities, says, "I get bullied at school. [At camp] I learn how to ignore others that hurt me."

Here, words are positive.

The art project required kids to paint a real fish and then place a piece of paper on top to make a rub. Excited budding artists run up to counselors for approval, which they receive with high fives and hugs.

Liz Obara, a university special education graduate student, seven-year veteran of Attaway's counselor corps and this year's program director, says that organizers try to plan small group and whole camp activities so kids can bond on both levels.

Campers range in age from 9 to 13 this year, with 7 being the youngest that can attend and 14- to 16-year-olds serving as counselors in training (CITs). Young people are

See **ATTAWAY**, page 3

Gone, But Not Forgotten

The droning buzz is a faint ringing in the ear these days and everyone almost misses the constant crunch under our feet, because, as Mike Raupp warned his students, the cicadas have left us "like a bad date."

Yet, the Cicadamaniacs' date with the 17-year locust was far from bad.

In fact, after appearing together in more than 50 newspapers and news segments in a dozen countries, one might describe it as a serious relationship.

"The real stars here were the bugs," Raupp says, with the main relationship existing between the entomology department and the university.

"My hat's off to the president's office and the media office for jumping on board," Raupp says.

Through this cicada adventure, the "university found out what effective outreach can look like. When everyone pulls the same direction, you can have a positive impact," he says.

That impact is what Maryland, a land grant institution, was originally founded to have, its primary responsi-



PHOTO BY M.S. FUHRER

A molting cicada enjoys the night air in the early hours of its aboveground phase of life.

bility to serve the communities in the area. The visit from the cicadas proved the perfect opportunity to make good on that deal, educating the community and creating an environment where plants and cicadas lived together.

Raupp and his Cicada-maniacs, a group of graduate students enrolled in a one-credit class, along with the crew in University Relations, started their strike on the unknown of the cicada — a journey that began so long ago, Raupp's office calendar is still on January.

Their mission: "to demystify the phenomenon of the periodical cicada," Raupp says. Their methods: anything they could get their hands on.

The Web site garnered more than 30,000 hits from January to May. Ital-

See **CICADAS**, page 3

dateline maryland

YOUR GUIDE TO UNIVERSITY EVENTS : JULY 20 - AUGUST 19

WEDNESDAY

july 21

10-11:30 a.m., Preparing for Your Retirement: Your Supplemental Retirement Plan 1101U Chesapeake Building. This seminar covers the three supplemental retirement plans and is intended for employees who are seven years or less from retirement. Participants are encouraged to bring their most recent statement to the seminar. Free. To register, go to www.uhr.umd.edu and click on Training Programs. For more information, call 5-5651.

THURSDAY

july 22

9 a.m.-noon, Delegation: The Key to Maximizing Productivity and Motivating Others 1101U Chesapeake Building. Learn to be more productive by improving task delegation. Cost is \$50. To register, go to www.uhr.umd.edu and click on Training Programs. For more information, call 5-5651.

FRIDAY

july 23

1-4 p.m., HTML II: Using Tables and Formatting for Web Page Layout 4404 Computer & Space Science Building. Introduces more features of HTML. Prerequisite: HTML I or skill equivalent. Cost: \$20 faculty/staff, \$10 students and \$25 alumni. For more information, contact Carol Warrington at 5-2938 or cwpost@umd.edu, or go to www.oit.umd.edu/pt.

6-8 p.m., Annual Maryland Crab Feast at Mulligan's Grill University Golf Course. Menu features steamed crabs and shrimp, fried oysters, roast beef and more (entire menu at www.dining.umd.edu/mulligans). Cost is \$47.95 adults; club members, faculty, staff and their guests, \$39.95; children 12 and under, \$19. Reservations are required at 4-6631.

MONDAY

july 26

8:45 a.m.-4 p.m., Introduction to Flash MX 4404 Computer & Space Science Building. Covers the basics of creat-

ing and animating objects. Prerequisites: Introduction to HTML or three months experience with Web page development. Cost is \$110. Pre-registration is required at least three working days before the class date. For more information or to register, contact Jane S. Wieboldt at 5-0443 or oit-training@umd.edu, or go to www.training.umd.edu.

TUESDAY

july 27

1-2 p.m., Build an Online Resume Using HTML 4404 Computer & Space Science Building. This free class covers basic HTML skills including table formatting. Prerequisite: the Peer Training HTML I and II classes or equivalent knowledge. For more information, contact Carol Warrington at 5-2938 or cwpost@umd.edu, or go to www.oit.umd.edu/pt.

WEDNESDAY

july 28

1-4 p.m., Adobe Photoshop: Designing Graphics & Photo Editing 4404 Computer & Space Science Building. Continued exploration of palettes, layers and resolution. Photo editing and retouching is introduced. Prerequisite: a WAM account. Cost: \$20 faculty/staff, \$10 students and \$25 alumni. For more information, contact Carol Warrington, 5-2938 or cwpost@umd.edu, or go to www.oit.umd.edu/pt.

1-2 p.m., Homeland Security 0103 Francis Scott Key. The Department of Public Safety will offer this free, brown-bag training session on: handling bomb threats; identifying and handling suspicious packages and persons; an explanation of the National Threat Level System; campus resources to deal with threats. To schedule a program for your group, contact Lt. Brian Lintz at 5-7165 or blintz@umpd.umd.edu.

THURSDAY

july 29

9 a.m.-noon, Technical Translation for IT Professionals 1101U Chesapeake Building. Develop skills to decode job responsibilities, identify a network of transla-

tors and form ways to educate executives and non-IT peers enough to ask for what they need, recognize what you do and streamline processes. Cost is \$50. To register, go to www.uhr.umd.edu and click on Training Programs. For more information, call 5-5651.

MONDAY

august 2

10-11 a.m. What is WebCT? 4404 Computer & Space Science Building. This free session surveys WebCT's tools and pedagogical potential. Pre-registration is required at www.training.umd.edu by selecting the Institute for Instructional Technology training organization from the Training at Maryland course catalog. For assistance with registration, contact Deborah Mateik at 5-2945 or zdeb@umd.edu.

FRIDAY

august 6

9 a.m.-noon, Macromedia Dreamweaver 4404 Computer & Space Science Building. This class covers the basics of creating a Web site without using HTML code. Prerequisite: a WAM account. Cost: \$20 faculty/staff, \$10 students and \$25 alumni. For more information, contact Carol Warrington at 5-2938 or cwpost@umd.edu, or go to www.oit.umd.edu/pt.

MONDAY

august 9

9 a.m.-4 p.m., New Employee Orientation 1101U Chesapeake Building. This program provides an overview of the University of Maryland's institutional mission, students and services. Lunch is included. Free. To register, go to www.uhr.umd.edu and click on Training Programs. For more information, call 5-5651.

TUESDAY

august 10

9 a.m.-noon, PRD: The Key to Performance and Productivity 1101U Chesapeake Building. This seminar is for employees and managers/supervisors who want to learn about the Performance Review and Development (PRD)

process. It is a prerequisite for PRD Training for Supervisors. Free. To register, go to www.uhr.umd.edu click on Training Programs. For more information, call 5-5651.

Noon-1p.m., PRD Training for Supervisors: Managing and Conducting the PRD Process 1101U Chesapeake Building. Participants will learn how to manage the PRD process and evaluate performance effectively. This course is required for all supervisors/managers who supervise a non-faculty employee. Free. To register, go to www.uhr.umd.edu and click on Training Programs. For more information, call 5-5651.

WEDNESDAY

august 11

9 a.m.-4 p.m., Freeing Up Your Inner Resources: Recognizing and Resolving Inner Conflict 1101U Chesapeake Building. Provides participants with effective strategies to resolve blind spots in one's personality that create challenges to professional and personal development. Cost is \$100. To register, go to www.uhr.umd.edu and click on Training Programs. For more information, call 5-5651.

THURSDAY

august 12

9 a.m.-4 p.m., Herding Cats: Getting Individuals, Teams and Departments Working Together 1101U Chesapeake Building. A workshop for managers, supervisors and other leaders who need to motivate people to work and make progress together. Cost is \$100. To register, go to www.uhr.umd.edu and click on Training Programs. For more information, call 5-5651.

FRIDAY

august 13

10 a.m.-noon, A Woman's Money, A Woman's Future 110U Chesapeake Building. This workshop targets women's issues through four life stages and highlights why planning is critical. Free. To register, go to www.uhr.umd.edu and click on Training Programs. For more information, call 5-5651.

TUESDAY

august 17

9 a.m.-4 p.m., Mentoring the Writing of Others 1101U Chesapeake Building. Designed to help writing reviewers to meet the challenges of helping staff and peers write clear, concise, honest and well-organized documents. Cost is \$100. To

register, go to www.uhr.umd.edu and click on Training Programs. For more information, call 5-5651.

WEDNESDAY

august 18

10-11:30 a.m., Your Supplemental Retirement Plan: Exploring Your MSRP Investment Options 1101U Chesapeake Building. For early- or mid-career employees enrolled with Nationwide Retirement Solutions (formerly PEBSCO). Participants, if already enrolled, should bring their most recent statement. Free. To register, go to www.uhr.umd.edu and click on Training Programs. For more information, call 5-5651.

THURSDAY

august 19

9 a.m.-noon, How to Conduct Stress-Free Performance Appraisals 1101U Chesapeake Building. Performance appraisals can be a valuable tool in improving employee performance. Taught by the author of the book "Stress-free Performance Appraisals," of which each participant will receive a copy. Cost is \$65. To register, go to www.uhr.umd.edu and click on Training Programs. For more information, call 5-5651.

For additional event listings, visit <http://outlook.collegepublisher.com>.

Outlook

Outlook is the monthly faculty-staff newspaper serving the University of Maryland campus community. Online editions of Outlook are published weekly at <http://outlook.collegepublisher.com>.

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Letters to the editor, story suggestions and campus information are welcome. Please submit all material two weeks before the Tuesday of publication.

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calendar guide

Calendar phone numbers listed as 4-xxxx or 5-xxxx stand for the prefix 314 or 405. Calendar information for Outlook is compiled from a combination of inforM's master calendar and submissions to the Outlook office. Submissions are due two weeks prior to the date of publication. To reach the calendar editor, call (301) 405-7468 or send e-mail to outlook@accmail.umd.edu.

University, Union Reach Agreement



PHOTO BY MONETTE AUSTIN BAILEY

Members of the exempt bargaining team, university administrators and union organizers look on as President Dan Mote signs the Memorandum of Understanding. From left: John Porcari, vice president for administrative affairs; Cherie Forster, a director with University Human Resources; Ben Cranston, team member and web programmer with OIT; Dale Anderson, director of personnel with University Human Resources; Greg Johnson, team member and associate director of user services for University Relations; Bryan Zidek, team member and health physicist with environmental safety; Agnes Beache, team member and senior accountant with Facilities Management; and David Sheridan, team member and IT coordinator with the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences.

The University of Maryland and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) reached their second three-year agreement on a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding covering wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment, this one for the university's 970 exempt professional staff employees.

The document was approved by President Dan Mote and the Board of Regents last month. Union membership

then ratified it with a vote.

Mote congratulated both sides on their reaching agreement. "We have now concluded negotiations with all three employee bargaining units at the university, and we look forward to working together with all our employees to continue to build this great university."

John D. Porcari, vice president for administrative affairs, said the agreement has resulted in a number of new benefits for employees including a salary increase, establishment of a professional development

day and a bereavement leave policy. Additionally, tuition remission and several other existing policies have been solidified under the umbrella of this agreement, a copy of which can be found at: www.afscme1072.org.

The university previously reached agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police, which represents the sworn police officers on the College Park campus, and with AFSCME, which represents the nonexempt staff employees on the campus.



Notable

The Council of University System Staff appointed **Queen Atterberry**, an accounting associate with Dining Services, for at-large representative for the College Park campus. Frank Clancy Jr., an engineering coordinator for the Office of Information Technology, was appointed to the exempt staff representative position. Both will serve two-year terms that begin immediately.

Brian Brevig is the new facility manager for the Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center. He will help the Maryland Alumni Association with its move into the new building, which is expected to open in the winter of 2005. **Linda Roth '84** is the center's first director of corporate and community events.

William Galston, Stern Professor of Civic Engagement and interim dean of the School of Public Policy, has been elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The academy honors prominent figures in scholarship, business, the arts and public affairs.

Jacques S. Gansler has been appointed university vice president for research for a period of two years. Gansler will continue to hold the Roger C. Lipitz Chair in the School of

Public Policy and serve as director of the Center for Public Policy and Private Enterprise.

Prof. **Matthias Ruth** has been awarded the Manaaki Whenua Fellowship from the Government of New Zealand, which will bring him there to share his research on urban infrastructure and help launch a companion project.

Rick Henry joined the school's Office of Executive Programs staff as assistant director. He will focus on new business development and will be responsible for existing programs for the National Institutes of Health.

Elisabeth El'Khodary has been appointed assistant dean and director of student affairs.

James M. Hagberg was given the 2004 Citation Award by the American College of Sports Medicine in recognition of his many contributions to the fields of exercise physiology, aging, cardiovascular disease risk factors and genetics.

Rebecca Zonies is Marketing & Communications' new coordinator for special programs, where her main responsibility will be to help coordinate the university's 150th anniversary celebration.

Attaway: Offering a Safe, Fun Alternative

Continued from page 1

grouped by age and are spread around the camp's borrowed space in a Columbia elementary school.

"Each year about 50 percent are returnees ... and we have a 97 percent attendance rate," says Cooper, even though the camp's lack of a permanent site has meant moving a few times. "For these kids, just to get here is a victory."

From the frustrated look of one late-arriving camper and her at-wit's-end looking mom, the victory is often hard won. Counselors cheer her entrance; Lieberman takes mom aside to talk about issues at home that may affect the camper's behavior at Attaway.

All of this attentive, professional care costs \$1,900. Knowing that most of the families cannot afford the burden, Cooper and Lieberman ask parents to pay what they can, which averages 40 percent. The rest comes from individual donations, corporate and foundation grants and the Departments of Recreation and Social Services of Howard County. One CIT felt so strongly about his experience that he gave a portion of his bar mitzvah gift money to the camp's scholarship fund.

Cooper says that no child has ever been denied attendance because of parents' inability to pay. The camp is as much for parents as it is for their children.

"Parents are a huge part of this. They are the



PHOTO BY MONETTE AUSTIN BAILEY

Artist-in-residence Cathy Vass, on leave from the National Endowment for the Arts, helps with a project.

rock of a child's life. We provide an education and support group just for the parents."

According to counselor Melissa Overstreet, a fourth-year special education major, Camp Attaway is a positive experience for everyone involved. "This is the best job I've ever had. It's a lot of work, but between the kids and the support staff, it's definitely worth it."

Cicadas: Buzzed Off

Continued from page 1

ian, British, Canadian, French and Korean media all picked up on the buzz; Japanese television had "no less than five shoots," Raupp reports.

He and his students had no problem "grubbing around in the dirt," "wrangling cicadas" and eating "cicada-licious" bugs.

It was just all "part of the experience," he says.

But there was a huge part of that experience that was not captured by the cameras or distributed in print; it was in the classrooms full of both children and adults. "Millions of people learned something," Raupp says.

From second graders to industry professionals to home and gardens groups, the Cicadamanians tried to spread their knowledge to anyone who would listen. Nothing is more evident of that effort than the office window on the fourth floor of the entomology building. It is covered in the words and drawings of children who can now consider themselves cicada experts.

The graduate students and Raupp went out with this message: "This is going to be

wicked cool! Watch it. Enjoy it."

"I tried to find cicadas. I found four. I was so excited," MacKenzie Edwards wrote.

The Cicadamanians definitely took "advantage of an unparalleled opportunity to teach the average person lots about biology," Raupp says, turning the negative anticipation into a positive experience.

"Thank you," Laura's letter on the window says. "I think cicadas are not scary."

Mission accomplished.

Of course the buzz spread as high as the president of the university himself.

Raupp recounts his chance encounter with Mote after filming with a German television crew:

"That cicada thing is really going," Mote said.

"They've sung their song," Raupp replied.

"Well, that must have been the ultimate spring break," Mote deadpanned.

As Raupp said on National Geographic's "Ultimate Explorer" program, "Most of us waited 17 years to lose our virginity, but at least we didn't have to live underground."

—Katrina Altersitz, journalism graduate student

For Your Interest

Making Contact

The College of Health and Human Performance Alumni Chapter will hold its First Annual Wrenn Scholarship Scramble on Aug. 6. This golf tournament will benefit the Jerry Wrenn Scholarship Fund, established to provide financial aid to students of the college.

University alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends are welcome. The tournament will be held at the university golf course. A "shot gun" start will begin at 8 a.m. Registrants will receive free continental breakfast, lunch, a golf shirt, cart, tee bag and more. Registration is \$100.

The tournament also welcomes those interested in volunteering or providing sponsorship. For more information, contact Carrie Petr at (301) 405-2472, or go to www.hhp.umd.edu.

Preparing New Leaders

The university's Leadership Development Institute is accepting registrations for its Fall 2004 Foundations of Leadership program. It is a certificate program geared toward current or prospective managers who have: limited management experience, recently been appointed to a supervisory/managerial role or minimal or no formal management training.

The registration deadline is July 30. For more information and to register, go to www.LDI.umd.edu or call (301) 405-5651.

Advising Conference

The 9th Annual Advising Conference will be held on Aug. 17, from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m., in the Atrium of the Art-Sociology Building. Network with colleagues and hear about some of the innovative advising practices occurring on campus. This year's program also will include sessions designated specifically for faculty advisors.

There will be no conference fee this year, but enrollment is limited, so early registration is recommended. Priority consideration will be given to registrations submitted by July 23.

For details and registration information, go to www.ugst.umd.edu/advisingconference/ or contact Kathy Angeletti, (301) 405-2358 or kangel@umd.edu.

Slay Your Dragons

This is a workshop offered by University Human Resources, for anyone who wants to look forward to going to work in the morning and leave energized. The three-day seminar can help participants discover meaning in their lives and connect that meaning to work. George Takacs, adjunct faculty member, will facilitate.

Participants must attend all three days—July 21, 22 and 29, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., in the Maryland Room of Marie Mount Hall. The registration fee is \$320. For more information and to register, go to www.uhr.umd.edu and click on Training Programs, or call (301) 405-5651.

Mulligan's Grill Closings

Mulligan's Grill will be closed on July 29, but the bar will be open until 9 p.m. with a full menu. The grill will also be closed Saturday, July 31, with the bar open until 7 p.m. For more information, contact Chris Cantore, (301) 314-6631; ccantore@dining.umd.edu, or go to www.dining.umd.edu/mulligans.

Cultivating Faculty Leaders

The Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost announces a program aimed at increasing the breadth, quality and diversity of administrative leadership on our campus. The Leadership Education and Administrative Development (LEAD) program will enable a group of tenured faculty to learn about the knowledge and skills required for success as a department chair, director, dean or university administrator.

Participants will complete seven interactive luncheon leadership seminars during the Fall 2004 semester. For more information and an application, go to www.faculty.umd.edu, or contact Ellin K. Scholnick, (301) 405-4252 or escholn@umd.edu.

Learning the Web Way

The Office of Information Technology will provide five workshops Aug. 3 to 4 that explore different features of the WebCT online course management system. These free sessions can be taken independent of one another; however, it is recommended that newcomers to the tool register for the Getting Started with WebCT module. Subsequent modules are Course Management, Course Content, Collaboration and Communication, and Assessment and Evaluation.

Pre-registration is required at www.training.umd.edu by selecting the Institute for Instructional Technology training organization from the Training at Maryland course catalog. Course descriptions are also available through the catalog. Contact Deborah Mateik, program coordinator, at (301) 405-2945 or zddeb@umd.edu, if you have any difficulties registering with this new registration system.

Campus Photography Talent Featured

The Union Gallery showcases photographs by the staff and recent students of The Art and Learning Center. The exhibition, "Developing Talent," offers a compelling look at the creative potential of the art form. Several of the developing techniques that may be learned in the center's Intro to Darkroom and Advanced Darkroom classes are also represented.

The show runs through Aug. 13. The gallery is located on the first floor of the Stamp Student Union (directly above the food court and next to Adele's Restaurant). Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday. For more information, call (301) 314-8493.

Field Day Offers Answers



PHOTO BY EDWIN REMSBURG

David Cammarota (right), president of the Maryland Turfgrass Council, presents a check for \$60,395 to Bruce Gardner, interim dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Approximately 200 researchers, professional turf managers, equipment exhibitors and homeowners, gathered at the university's Paint Branch Turfgrass Research Facility on July 14 for a Field Day and Open House. There they learned about recent research activities and results, got answers to lawn-care questions from experts and exchanged information with colleagues and peers.

Throughout the day, researchers in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) and the College of Life Sciences led participants on tours of field plots, discussing work related to sod production, evaluation of grass varieties (e.g. a performance comparison of lawn seed mixes), and turf management on home lawns (e.g. crabgrass and clover control), athletic fields, golf courses (e.g. advances in controlling dollar spot, brown patch and summer decline) and commercial sites. Local distributors hosted exhibits on and demonstrated turfgrass machinery.

A highlight of the day was the dedication of the Plant Preparation Building by AGNR interim dean Bruce Gardner. Construction of the building, which includes a small greenhouse and workspace to support turf research and education, was made possible by a contribution from the Maryland Turfgrass Council.

Becker: Rewarded for Work

Continued from page 1

awardees. Becker was nominated by the National Science Foundation, which chooses the nominees from approximately 400 junior faculty members who have received grants from the foundation's early CAREER development program.

"It was instant credibility," says Becker, who has been with the university for nearly five years. "What I proposed was a bit novel, so it was really exciting to get the award." Becker received the CAREER grant two years ago, but constant changes to President Bush's schedule pushed announcement of the 2002 PECASE awards and the White House ceremony to last spring.

Becker's work explores "how the use of microorganisms in an engineering approach known as bioremediation, can be used to clean up groundwater contaminants in a more efficient and cheaper manner compared to technologies that rely on chemicals and/or physical processes alone," she explains.

"It's relatively new technology. People were dabbling in it in the

'70s and we watched it take off in the early '90s. However, in order to fully realize the potential benefits of bioremediation, we need to better understand how and why microorganisms destroy environmental contaminants."

She says because of an "astounding amount of contamination in the United States," it is important that more effective clean-up methods be found. Chlorinated solvents and fuel, for example, most often contaminate ground water.

In addition, "We don't always realize that products we're using today...can create headaches for the future," she says, mentioning pharmaceuticals as emerging environmental contaminants of concern. "Often, they don't appear to break down during the conventional wastewater treatment and may find their way into rivers and other surface waters."

Becker says bioremediation, or any clean-up work, can be a daunting challenge "when you look at all of the different chemicals out there and that we're constantly creating new ones."